

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 04983 01 OF 02 231550Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----018660 231555Z /43,

P R 231422Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2923  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 4983

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS PBOR, PGOV, JO/ SA, SY, PLO, XF  
SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER

SUMMARY: JORDAN PM BADRAN SAID SAUDIS HAD PROMISED TO  
HELP PAY FOR A GOJ MILITARY PAY RAISE; NO MONEY  
YET FORTHCOMING. SAUDIS WERE PLEASED WITH SECRETARY'S  
VISIT. SAUDIS BELIEVE THAT ASAD CHANGED PLO  
MIND ABOUT ACCEPTING 242 AND ASAD CAME CLOSE TO CONFIRMING  
THIS POINT TO JORDAN COURT CHIEF SHARAF  
LAST WEEK. BADRAN SAYS PLO WILL EVENTUALLY ACCEPT  
242 BUT IS TRYING TO INCREASE ITS BARGINING LEVERAGE  
(POSSIBLY INCLUDING AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA FOR MORE MONEY)  
BEFORE DOING SO. JORDAN WILL PROBABLY MEET WITH PLO AGAIN  
IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. KING SUPPORTS PLO ACCEPTANCE  
OF 242, BADRAN SAYS, BECAUSE IT WILL HELP U.S.  
MOVE FORWARD TOWARD PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. KUWAIT  
AND POSSIBLY OTHERS HAVE OR WILL MAKE RABAT PAY-  
MENTS THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY

1. I SAW PRIME MINISTER BADRAN AUGUST 23 FOR  
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A REVIEW OF AREA DEVELOPMENTS. HE BEGAN BY  
TELLING ME OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA.

2. HE SAW KING KHALED VIRTUALLY ALONE AND PRESENTED  
TO HIM A REQUEST BY KING HUSSEIN FOR \$30 MILLION  
TO COVER ARMY SALARY INCREASE WHICH WAS  
ANNOUNCED HERE ON AUGUST 21. KHALED WAS PLEASANT,

UNDERSTANDING AND FORTHCOMING AND PROMISED, GOD WILLING, A GOOD RESPONSE TO THE JORDANIAN REQUEST. BADRAN HAS NOT YET HEARD FROM THE SAUDIS BUT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS ITEM AS THE NEXT STEP IN SEEING WHAT MORE JORDAN CAN GET FROM THE SAUDIS.

3. CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD BIN FEISAL WERE BOTH EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT. THEIR VIEWS ON THE VISIT WERE SIMILAR TO JORDAN BADRAN SAID. BADRAN URGED FAHD TO PUSH EGYPTIANS HARD ON UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION APPROACH FOR GENEVA AND FAHD SAID SAUDIS HAD AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

4. I ASKED BADRAN ABOUT PLO AND SAUDI REACTIONS. BADRAN TOLD ME THAT SAUD BIN FEISAL SAID INITIALLY THE SAUDIS BELIEVED THE PLO WOULD ACCEPT THE U.S. PROPOSAL ON CONTACTS WITH SOME SUITABLE RESERVATION. LATER, THE PLO CAME BACK MUCH HARDER AND STARTED ASKING ABOUT WHAT WAS IN THE DEAL FOR THE PLO. SAUDIS CONCLUDED THAT ASAD HAD USED THIS LINE WITH PLO AND THAT IT HAD SERVED TO HARDEN PLO POSITION. SAUDIS ASKED JORDANIANS FOR INFORMATION ON SYRIAN VIEWS AND ACTIVITIES RE PLO. AS A RESULT,  
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SHARIF ABDUL HAMID SHARAF WAS ASKED BY BADRAN TO RAISE THIS QUESTION DIRECTLY WITH ASAD WHEN SHARAF SAW ASAD IN DAMASCUS LAST WEEK.

5. ASAD'S RESPONSE WAS TO SAY THAT HE HAD NOT ADVISED THE PLO. BUT HE HAD RAISED WITH PLO WHAT IT WAS GETTING OUT OF THE DEAL. ASAD SAID HE HAD TOLD THE PLO THAT SYRIA ACCEPTED 242 AND THAT PLO WOULD HAVE TO DO SO ALSO, BUT THAT PLO SHOULD CALCULATE WHAT IT COULD GET AND IN EFFECT HOLD OUT FOR THAT.

6. I TOLD BADRAN I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PLO WAS NOW APPROACHING THE ISSUE BY SEEING WHAT IT COULD DO IN THE WAY OF CHANGING 242 AT THE UN. IN EFFECT THEY WERE ANSWERING A QUESTION BY ASKING A QUESTION AND THUS TRYING TO PUT THE DECISION RESPONSIBILITY BACK ON THE BACKS OF ARAB STATES AND THE U.S. HE AGREED, BUT SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE PLO REALLY WANTED TO ACCEPT 242 (HANI AL-HASSAN TOLD HIM THAT 3 YEARS AGO) AND WAS IN EFFECT SEEING WHAT IT COULD GET IN RETURN. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE PLO MIGHT WELL GO TO THE SAUDIS WITH A

BIG DEMAND FOR FUNDS WHICH THEY WOULD TRADE OFF FOR PLO ACCEPTANCE OF 242. HE ALSO ADDED THAT THE COMING MEETING OF THE PLO IN DAMASCUS WILL NOT BE A DECISION-MAKING BODY PER SE. THE INNER GROUP OF THE PLO, WHICH HE DID NOT IDENTIFY, WILL DECIDE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BROADER MEETING WHAT IT WISHES TO DO AND WILL FOLLOWING THE MEETING, BEGIN TO PUT ITS DECISIONS INTO EFFECT. BADRAN SAID HE CLEARLY BELIEVES THE PLO IS MORE UNITED AND STRUCTURED IN ITS APPROACH THAN THE PLO WISHES IT TO APPEAR ON THE OUTSIDE.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----019404 231639Z /43

P R 231422Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2925  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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EXDIS

7. AS FOR CONTACTS WITH JORDAN, BADRAN SAID THAT PLO STILL KNOCKS AT THE DOOR AND THAT JORDAN STILL HAS THE KEY TURNED AGAINST THE DOOR OPENING. HE THOUGH HOWEVER THAT AFTER THE KING RETURNS FROM HIS CURRENT VISITS ABROAD (EARLY SEPTEMBER) THERE MIGHT WELL BE ANOTHER JORDANIAN-PLO MEETING. THE JORDANIANS WERE HOLDING OFF NOW BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY CRITICISM BEING AIMED AT JORDAN AND THE KING PERSONALLY BY THE PLO, ESPECIALLY THROUGH ITS CAIRO TRANSMITTER. THE JORDANIANS HAD COMPLAINED TO THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN TERMS WHICH MADE CLEAR THAT GOJ BELIEVED THE VOP WAS ATTACKING HUSSEIN IN PART AS A SURROGATE TARGET FOR SADAT. BADRAN SAID EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AGREED, BUT HE (BADRAN) DID NOT HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE THAT EGYPTIANS WOULD TONE DOWN VOP CAIRO OPERATION.

8. BADRAN MADE PONT OF TELLING ME THAT HUSSEIN  
PERSONNALLY SUPPORTS GETTING PLO TO AGREE TO  
242 BECAUSE IT WILL HELP TO FACILITATE U.S.  
PRESENT EFFORTS FOR PEACE. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT ALSO  
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THAT KING HUSSEIN WOULD NOT BE UNHAPPY TO SEE PLO  
FAIL TO ACCEPT 242 THUS POSSIBLY OPENING THE WAY TO NEGOTIATIONS  
PROCEEDING WITHOUT THE PLO. ON THE  
OTHER HAND KING SEEMS RELAXED ABOUT HAVING THINGS  
WORK OUT IN A WAY WHERE PLO MIGHT REALLY HAVE TO  
FACE UP TO PROBLEMS OF NEGOTIATING OVER MIDDLE  
EAST PEACE AND THE COMPROMISES WHICH HUSSEIN  
BELIEVES SUCH WOULD REQUIRE THE PLO TO MAKE.  
END COMMENT

9. BADRAN ALSO TOLD ME THAT KUWAIT HAD BEGUN  
PROVIDING RABAT SUMMIT PAYMENTS RECENTLY. THE  
OTHERS HE ASSUMED WOULD FOLLOW WITH EXCEPTION  
OF IRAQ. IRAQ, WHEN APPROACHED, SAID THAT JORDAN  
WAS NOT FIGHTING THE ISRAELIS AND WAS FULLY  
SUPPORTING ALL OF THE PEACE INITIATIVES AND DID  
NOT DESERVE TO HAVE A PENNY OF IRAQI RABAT MONEY  
AND WOULD GET NONE.  
PICKERING

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009